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COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

OPIC Military Information from the Justerbog-Luckenwalde Post

EVALUATION see below [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT 11 September to 22 October 1953

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DATE PREPARED 13 November 1953

PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. &amp; TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. On 14 and 17 October 1953, noises of many tank engines were heard from the Forst Zinna training area throughout the day. The tanks had come from Justerbog II.

2. On 15 October, about 120 to 140 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with carbines, submachine guns and light machine guns were seen on Bahnhofstrasse, Justerbog, proceeding toward Altes Lager. Columns seen en route toward Altes Lager, coming from the direction of Justerbog-Stadt, included 4 guns towed [REDACTED] and each truck occupied by 10 to 15 soldiers, on 16 October, and 4 guns and 1 field kitchen on 17 October.

3. At about 9 a.m. on 17 October, 8 to 10 T-34 tanks left Neues Lager and after passing the hospital, turned toward the woods.

4. On 10 October, 80 to 100 tanks, 15 to 20 factory-new armored personnel carriers mounting machine guns, 15 to 20 armored personnel carriers of another type, mounting 1 to 2 machine guns; 30 SP guns, 2 command tanks, trucks of all types, several radio trucks and 5 field kitchens crossed the track at the ration supply depot and proceeded behind the hospital, coming from Justerbog II. [REDACTED]

5. On 22 October, the former Norddeutsche Maschinenfabrik, Luckenwalde, was occupied as previously by about 300 to 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. On 8, 13 and 21 October, about 80 troops engaged in drill and physical training in the barracks area. [REDACTED]

6. On 22 October, Stalag I was occupied by about 500 to 600 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. On 13 and 16 October, 6 to 8 rocket launchers; and about 120 troops engaged in cleaning of guns, drill and physical training, were seen in the barracks yard. [REDACTED]

On 22 October, Stalag II was occupied as previously by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery insignia. Troops seen in the barracks area engaged in drill and maintenance work on trucks. At about 10 a.m. on 16 October, about 60 troops with 6 commander's telescopes left the camp toward the training area. [REDACTED]

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8. Between 7 and 22 October, the Forst Zinna training area was restricted only on 9 and 10 October. An artillery firing practice was held on these two days. Twelve 76-mm field guns and about 100 troops were seen west of Jagen (forest section) Nos 16 and 40, firing toward Mehlsdorf. About 50 trucks, 3 field kitchens, about 250 troops and 4 x 76-mm field guns under an aaron were seen north of Jagen No 16.

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At the same time, 3 rocket launchers, including [redacted] fired individually about 500 meters west of Stalag II. On 15 and 20 October, about 250 to 300 troops fired with carbines at the firing range.

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9. On 22 October, the Adolf Hitler Camp near Forst Zinna was occupied as previously by about 2,000 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets, including some with artillery and tank insignia. On 12, 14 and 19 October, firing with carbines and machine guns was continually practiced at the firing ranges in the barracks area. On 21 October, 2 columns, each in the strength of about 1 company, armed with carbines and 8 light machine guns, left the installation for exercises including attacks in the Jagen just northeast of the camp. At about 4 p.m. on 22 October, 3 trucks, towing 37-mm AA guns, were seen entering the installation.

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11. On 2 October, the new barracks buildings No 1, and the rear buildings in Stalag I were occupied by about 500 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Between 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 16 September, 54 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets practiced firing with carbines in the gravel pits. On 18 September, about 80 troops received infantry training in the barracks area. On 21 and 28 September about 96 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets and armed with carbines left the camp toward the wooded area. About 60 troops engaged in physical training on 25 September.

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12. On 2 October, the cantonment buildings on the south side of Stalag I, as well as dispensary building No 1, were occupied [below] capacity. Source believed that the bunkers south of the camp were also occupied by troops. Marksmanship training was observed there almost daily. At about 3 p.m. on 15 September, about 100 troops, armed with carbines and carrying field bags and rolled blankets, left the installation. On 18 and 21 September, about 50 to 60 troops engaged in physical training and on 25 September, about 40 soldiers practiced the throwing of hand grenades.

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